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STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES

Monday, February 7, 2011 9:00 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1082 RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL FUND

House Bill 1082 would establish the Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the purpose of setting aside monies to be used toward the protection of the State's natural resources. The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.

The Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has been approached by private grant-funding sources that are interested in partnering with DOCARE to improve natural, cultural and historic resources, public education, and information as well as providing an opportunity to enhance enforcement operations. However, the Department does not have a special fund to receive and access monies that could directly support DOCARE program activities.

This bill would establish a Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund to receive supplemental funding from various sources for the enforcement of state, county or federal laws relating to natural, cultural, and historic resources management and protection. While the Department can accept and establish trust accounts to manage a one-year grant from foundations, multi-year non-governmental funding should be placed into an established and dedicated account.

This bill will benefit the public through the enhancement of our enforcement program and increase opportunities for better compliance through an improved public information and education program and strengthen the Department's efforts to enforce existing resources protection measures.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHARPERSON
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WILLIAM M. TAM DEPUTY DESECTOR - WATER

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